That All may know the TRUTH;
And that the TRUTH may make us FREE!!

On Friday, the 5th Day of February, 1796,

WILL BE PUBLISHED,

No. I.

(PRICE FOUR PENCE)

OF A

MISCELLANY, TO BE PUBLISHED EVERY EIGHTH DAY,

UNDER THE NAME OF

THE WATCHMAN.

BY S. T. COLERIDGE,

AUTHOR OF

ADDRESSES TO THE PEOPLE,
A PLOT DISCOVERED, &c. &c.

The Publiſhers in the different Towns and Cities will be ſpecified in future Advertiſements.

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PROSPECTUS.

IN AN ENSLAVED STATE THE RULERS FORM AND SUPPLY THE OPINIONS OF THE PEOPLE. This is the mark by which Deſpotiſm is diſtinguiſhed: for it is the power, by which Deſpotiſm is begun and continued. —— "*The abuſes, that are rooted in all the "old Governments of Europe, give ſuch numbers of men "ſuch a direct intereſt in ſupporting, cherishing, and "defending abuſes, that no wonder advocates for ty-"ranny of every ſpecies are found in every country, and "almoſt in every company. What a maſs of People in "every part of England are ſome way or other intereſted in "the preſent repreſentation of the people, in tythes, charters, "corporations, monopolies, and taxation! and not merely "in the things themſelves, but in all the abuſes attending "them; and how many are there who derive their profit or "their conſideration in life, not merely from ſuch inſtitu-"tions, but from the evils they engender!*"

ARTHUR YOUNG'S TRAVELS.

Among the moſt powerful advocates and auxiliaries of abuſes we muſt claſs (with a few honorable exceptions) the weekly provincial Newſpapers, the Editors of which receive the Treaſury Prints gratis, and in ſome inſtances *with particular paragraphs marked out for their inſertion.* —— Theſe Papers form the chief, and ſometimes the only, reading of that large and important body of men, who living out of towns and cities have no opportunity of hearing calumnies expoſed and falſe ſtatements detected. Thus are Adminiſtrations enabled to ſteal away their Rights and Liberties, either ſo gradually as to undermine their Freedom without alarming them; or if it be neceſſary to carry any great point ſuddenly, to overthrow their Freedom by alarming them againſt themſelves.

A PEOPLE ARE FREE IN PROPORTION AS THEY FORM THEIR OWN OPINIONS. In the ſtricteſt ſenſe of the word KNOWLEDGE IS POWER. Without previous illumination a change in the *forms* of Government will be of no avail. Theſe are but the ſhadows, the virtue and rationality of the People at large are the ſubſtance, of Freedom: and where Corruption and Ignorance are prevalent, the beſt *forms* of Government are but the "Shadows of a Shade!" We actually transfer the Sovereignty to the People, when we make them ſuſceptible of it. In the preſent perilous ſtate

of our Conſtitution the Friends of Freedom, of Reaſon, and of Human Nature, muſt feel it their duty by every mean in their power to ſupply or circulate political information. We aſk not their patronage: It will be obtained in proportion as we ſhall be found to deſerve it. ——— Our Miſcellany will be comprized in two ſheets, or thirty-two pages, cloſely printed, the ſize and type the ſame as of this PROSPECTUS. ——— The contents will be

I. — An Hiſtory of the domeſtic and foreign Occurrences of the preceding days.

II. — The Speeches in both Houſes of Parliament: and during the Receſs, ſelect Parliamentary Speeches, from the commencement of the reign of Charles the Firſt to the preſent æra, with Notes hiſtorical and biographical.

III. — Original Eſſays and Poetry, chiefly or altogether political.

It's chief objects are to co-operate (1) with the WHIG CLUB in procuring a repeal of Lord Grenville's and Mr. Pitt's bills, now paſſed into laws, and (2) with the PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES, for obtaining a Right of Suffrage general and frequent.

In the cities of London, Briſtol, , , and , it will appear as regularly as a Newſpaper, over which it will have theſe advantages:

I. — There being no advertiſement, a greater quantity of original matter muſt be given.

II. — From its form, it may be bound up at the end of the year, and become an Annual Regiſter.

III. — This laſt circumſtance may induce Men of Letters to prefer this Miſcellany to more periſhable publications, as the vehicle of their effuſions.

It remains to ſay, that whatever powers or acquirements the Editor poſſeſſes, he will dedicate *entirely* to this work; and (which is of more importance to the Public) he has received promiſes of occaſional aſſiſtance from literary men of eminence and eſtabliſhed reputation. With ſuch encouragement he offers himſelf to the Public as a faithful

WATCHMAN,

to proclaim the State of the Political Atmoſphere, and preſerve Freedom and her Friends from the attacks of Robbers and Aſſaſſins!!

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